

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION NO. RS2019-1647

A resolution supporting ~~SB 0277/HB 1390~~ SB 0932/HB 1335, currently pending before the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, introduced by ~~Senator Rosalind Kurita and Representative Ryan Williams~~ Senator Jon Lundberg and Representative Rick Eldridge, ~~SB 0277/HB 1390~~ SB 0932/HB 1335, currently pending before the Tennessee General Assembly, as amended, would authorize a municipality, a county, or a county having a metropolitan form of government to regulate tobacco product and vapor product in certain locations, as long as the regulation is not less restrictive than required by state law; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, over 45 million adults still smoke cigarettes, with approximately 500,000 dying each year of tobacco smoke-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the health and welfare of Tennessee residents is a top priority of local and state legislators; and

WHEREAS, 83,399 or 17.4% of adults regularly smoke cigarettes in Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, research shows that smoking bans lead to marked reductions in cardiovascular incidents, and furthermore, some studies have suggested that brief exposure to second-hand smoke can damage the lining of blood vessels, cause blood platelets to become stickier, and lead to a deadly heart attack; and

WHEREAS, additional effects of second-hand smoke include: increased risk of stroke by 20-30%, increased risk of developing heart disease by 25-30% for non-smokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke, and nearly 34,000 premature deaths from heart disease each year in the United States among non-smokers; and

WHEREAS, preliminary research has suggested an association between dementia syndromes in adults and exposure to second-hand smoke; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, 4 out of 10 school-aged children, and 1 out of 3 adolescents are involuntarily exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke (SHS), with children of minority ethnic backgrounds and those living in low-socioeconomic-status households being disproportionately affected (68% and 43%, respectively); and

WHEREAS, children are particularly vulnerable, with little control over home and social environment, and lack the understanding, agency, and ability to avoid SHS exposure on their own volition; and

WHEREAS, side-stream smoke – the smoke emanating from the burning end of the cigarette – a major component of SHS, contains a higher concentration of some toxins than mainstream smoke – inhaled by the smoker directly – making SHS potentially as dangerous as or even more dangerous than direct smoking; and

WHEREAS, compelling animal and human evidence shows that SHS exposure during childhood is detrimental to arterial function and structure, resulting in premature atherosclerosis and its cardiovascular consequences; and

WHEREAS, childhood SHS exposure is also related to impaired cardiac autonomic function and changes in heart rate variability, and is associated with clustering of cardio metabolic risk factors such as obesity, dyslipidemia, and insulin resistance; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests that comprehensive smoke free laws may reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke hospitalizations by 15% and 16% respectively; and

WHEREAS, smoking not only claims the lives of those who use tobacco, but also those who are exposed to second-hand smoke; and

WHEREAS, this state legislation would support and further ensure the health and wellbeing of all Tennesseans, including the citizens of Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County go on record as supporting ~~SB 0277/HB 1390~~ SB 0932/HB 1335, as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That the Metropolitan County Council hereby goes on record as supporting the state legislation proposed under ~~SB 0277/HB 1390~~ SB 0932/HB 1335, as amended, currently pending before the Tennessee General Assembly.

Section 2. That the Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Davidson County Delegation to the Tennessee General Assembly.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Erica Gilmore

Freddie O'Connell
Members of Council